

In the claims:

Amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

A1 1. (Amended) In a point of sale system for acquiring bar code data relating to a transaction, wherein a first bar code scanner is arranged to scan bar codes and provide data relating to scanned bar codes to a processor, the improvement comprising a second portable bar code scanner, said second scanner including a slave radio module for acting as a slave unit using a master-slave data communication protocol and said second scanner including an identifying bar code individually identifying said second scanner, and wherein there is provided a master radio module associated with said point of sale system and wherein said master radio module is arranged to act as a master for communication with said slave radio module in response to reading of said identifying bar code on said second scanner by said first bar code scanner.

A2 5. (Amended) A method for establishing a master/slave data communication link between a master device and a slave device, comprising:

- providing a machine readable identification device on a slave device, said identification device including identification data individually identifying said slave device;
- reading said identification device with a reader, other than said slave device, associated with said master unit to obtain said identification data;
- determining a slave address of said slave device from said identification data; and
- operating said master unit to associate with said slave device using said slave address.